



Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, August 14, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK, Fuji TV, and TV Asahi led with reports on Typhoon Leepi that is expected to make landfall in Kyushu from this evening to tomorrow morning. NTV and TBS gave top play to updates on a rape suspect who is at large after escaping from an Osaka police station on Sunday.

INTERNATIONAL

Inter-Korean summit may be held as early as Sept. 12

Jiji reported from Seoul that Chung-in Moon, a special advisor to President Moon on foreign policy, said on a South Korean TV program on Monday that the next summit between President Moon and Chairman Kim will be held in Pyongyang after Sept. 9, the 70th anniversary of the DPRK's foundation, on either Sept. 12 or 13. In addition, although Moon expressed the view that the likelihood of a declaration to end the Korean War being released before the UN General Assembly in late September has grown slim, he reportedly said it "is not impossible if efforts are made swiftly."

DOS official says denuclearization essential for inter-Korean rapprochement

NHK reported online that with regard to the agreement between North and South Korea to hold a summit next month in Pyongyang, a DOS official reiterated the position that it is essential for North Korea to take concrete actions toward denuclearization. The network said the DOS official told the network on Monday: "President Moon has said rapprochement between the North and South can't take place separately from resolving the North Korean nuclear issue." The official also reportedly stressed the importance of maintaining economic sanctions against the North by saying: "If North Korea does not proceed with denuclearization, the economic sanctions will absolutely remain in place." The network opined that the U.S. is apparently cautioning the South Korean government not to relax the sanctions readily.

- [Chinese Premier Li to attend student exchange event with Japan](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japanese defense chief may visit the Netherlands and Italy next month](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Japan, Ecuador eye cooperation in economy, disaster mitigation](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: Genuine reciprocal relationship must be created between Japan and China](#) (The Japan News)

ECONOMY

- [Editorial: Principle of fair and free trade must prevail in Japan-U.S. talks](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Editorial: Japan should continue to reject “saber-rattling” diplomacy](#) (Sankei)
- [Editorial: Adhere to free trade rules in talks with U.S.](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Editorial: Sincere dialogue needed in Japan-U.S. trade talks to avoid trade friction](#) (The Japan News)
- [Keidanren chief: Companies should think about U.S. national interest in trade friction](#) (Nikkei)
- [80% of major Japanese firms expect economy to grow in 2018, Kyodo News survey of 113 major companies](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Opinion poll & results of Kyodo News survey of 113 major companies](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Japanese electric utilities announce acquisition of three power plants in U.S.](#) (Nikkei)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister’s schedule on Aug. 12-13, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Abe calls for the submission of a plan to change Japan’s Constitution during next Diet session](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Gist of PM Abe’s speech in Shimonoseki City, Yamaguchi, Aug. 12](#) (Sankei)
- [LDP heavyweight Takeshita declares support for Ishiba in presidential election](#) (Sankei)
- [Vice education minister poised to resign over bribery scandal of senior officials](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Tamaki, Tsumura to face off in DPFP leadership race](#) (Nikkei)

EDUCATION

- [37 national universities undecided on use of private English tests for admission: Asahi survey](#) (Asahi)

SECURITY

- [Okinawa source: Gov’t sought postponement of landfill permit revoke after Onaga’s demise](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [LDP-backed candidate to run in Okinawa governor election](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Okinawa university worried over U.S. base on chopper crash anniv.](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Cartoon: Okinawa gubernatorial election](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

GOJ may delay FRF landfill work until after gubernatorial election

Okinawa Times front-paged a report saying that it learned from several sources on Monday that the GOJ is considering delaying its plan to begin landfill work at the FRF construction site at Henoko on Aug. 17 until after the gubernatorial election scheduled for Sept. 30. The paper speculated that the central government is concerned that starting the work ahead of the election might adversely affect the ruling coalition's campaign for the gubernatorial race. The paper conjectured that if the GOJ decides to postpone the work until after the election, the decision on whether to revoke the landfill permit may be left in the hands of the new governor to be elected on Sept. 30. According to the paper, some prefectural assembly members have expressed understanding for the idea of possibly delaying a decision on the revocation by saying that it is too "serious" to be entrusted to someone who is only acting on behalf of the governor temporarily. However, local politicians who supported the late Governor Onaga have expressed concern that it will become difficult to revoke the permit if their candidate loses in the gubernatorial race.

Meanwhile, the paper reported in a separate article that the GOJ asked the prefectural government after Governor Onaga passed away to postpone the revocation of the landfill permit. However, a senior prefectural government official was quoted as telling reporters on Monday that the permit will definitely be rescinded before the landfill work begins.

- [Two U.S. military personnel arrested on DUI charges](#) (Okinawa Times)
 - [68% of municipal assembly candidates say Osprey should be removed, Okinawa Times poll](#) (Okinawa Times)
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